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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM SHERRY HENRY SHOW

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DATE JANUARY 15, 1979 10:10 A.M. CIT

FULL TEXT

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SHERRY HENRY: Hello, everybody. This is  
Well, the Shah is supposed to leave by Friday.  
back just a minute. Remember the New Year's Eve toast that our  
President made to the Shah, when he and Mrs. Carter were in Iran  
last year. As he raised his champagne at midnight, he pointed to  
the island of stability that Iran was, and that Shah, the king of  
kings was. That situation now in Iran is an international crisis;  
but for the U.S. in a way it is a national embarrassment.

We appear to have supported too long a man who was unable to  
hold his throne, without realizing the enormous amount of dissent  
going on in Iran. It makes you wonder where our CIA agents were,  
who were supposed to be telling us all this. As some have said,  
the CIA was simply out to lunch, when it was predicting the  
uprising in Iran.

Jesse Leaf is here. For five years he was our top CIA agent  
in Iran. But that term of office stopped several years ago. As  
a matter of fact, you left Iran when, Jesse Leaf?

JESSE LEAF: '73.

HENRY: '73. What were your reports coming out of Iran at  
the time?

LEAF: For the previous three or four years I had been  
reporting that there was trouble in Iran. There was the probability  
of internal dissidence. I didn't have the exact date. I figure  
it would take about two years before it broke open. As it happened  
it took a little bit longer.

But I had warned back in '72, '73, that the undercurrents of  
dissent would tear Iran apart. Now, my reporting was ignored. I  
was prohibited from writing these type of reports by my superiors.